

Webb, had, or is capable of having, any part
 or lot in it
 Thus, to what was intended to be a tactful
 query on the
 Palestine matter, his reply was "I do not feel
 free to tell you
 about any particular Cabinet matter " No light
 has there-
 fore been thrown by him on any of the
 circumstances of
 the row that broke out, with resounding echoes,
 on the issue
 of this particular Paper For its drafting, he
 was, of course,
 as Minister, responsible

He made, as the core of his Paper, a
 Development scheme,
 based on the Report of Sir John Hope-Simpson,
 and dealt,
 first, with the position of the landless Arabs,
 and then with
 proposals for bringing more land into
 cultivatable condition
 by irrigation, etc , for the use of both Jews
 and Arabs, to
 permit of laigei Jewish immigration, without
 injustice to
 the Arabs A Loan Fund of £2,500,000, ^{to} be
 provided by
 the British Government, was an integral part of
 this scheme
 indeed, its pivot The way was prepared for
 the announce-
 ment of the Development scheme by a survey
 of the diffi-
 culties of the situation, and notably of the
 difficulty in the
 way of sanctioning additional Jewish
 immigration presented
 by the unemployment and land scarcity from
 which the
 Arabs suffered At the last moment, the
 Treasury is said
 to have asked that the intimation of the
 financial support to
 be given by way of loan should be left out, as
 they did not
 wish to be finally committed to it This
 erasure, however,
 left the Paper as a statement of facts, in
 themselves incon-
 trovertible, which read disagreeably when,
 instead of being

linked up with a largely conceived
development plan,
providing, on bold and statesmanlike lines,
more land for
both Jews and Arabs, it faded out into vague
generalities
Instead of being a plan, the thing became a
lecture As
such, it was hailed with a torrent of bitter
abuse Before
many days had passed, agitation had developed
into one of
those recurrent "crises" that made up the
hectic life of the
second Labour Government An
unfortunate interview,